

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-19 as follows:

1. (currently amended) Device for avoiding traffic accidents where at least one vehicle with four or more wheels and another type of road user are involved and where said road user comes into contact with at least part of a side of the vehicle, which vehicle is provided with means by means of which the presence of another road user in the vicinity of the side of the vehicle can be established by the driver of the vehicle, ~~characterised in that said means are provided with~~ the device comprising:

at least one proximity sensor provided with said means fixed in or on the relevant side of the vehicle by means of which the presence of an object within a strip of selectable width from the side of the vehicle can be detected, which proximity sensor is linked to an alarm sounding device by means of which the driver can be alerted if the sensor is activated.

2. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the vehicle constitutes a motor vehicle with a chassis that is supported by at least three, ~~in particular four or more,~~ wheels.

3. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the vehicle is constituted by a trailer that has to be pulled by a tractor in a known manner.

4. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the vehicle is constituted by the combination of a tractor and trailer coupled thereto.

5. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that the~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor is a pressure sensor
 by means of which the presence of a road user or object ~~who/that~~ is pressing against the side of
 the vehicle can be detected.

6. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein
 the pressure sensor is pressure-sensitive over an elongated surface.

7. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein
 the pressure sensor is pressure-sensitive over virtually the entire length of the side concerned.

8. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 1-4, characterised in~~
~~that the~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor is a radiation sensor that is sensitive
 to radiation, ~~in particular infrared radiation,~~ by means of which the presence of a road user in the
 vicinity of a side of the vehicle can be detected.

9. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 1-4, characterised in~~
~~that the~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor is ~~[[a]]~~ an electromagnetic sensor that
 is sensitive to electromagnetic waves, ~~in particular in the radar frequencies,~~ by means of which
 the presence of a road user or object in the vicinity of the side of the vehicle can be detected.

10. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 8 or 9, characterised in that~~ Claim 8, wherein the sensitivity of the at least one proximity sensor is set such that an alarm is generated only in the case of detection of a road user or object within a predetermined distance from the relevant side of the vehicle.

11. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor is at a predetermined height above the road.

12. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a number of sensors are installed, each~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor includes a plurality of proximity sensors, each installed at a different height above the road.

13. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ Claim 1, wherein the device is employed with a motor vehicle that is provided on one side with a safety guard at a gap between the wheels, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one of the at least one of the proximity sensors is installed on the safety guard.

14. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the safety guard includes a plurality of horizontal parts, and wherein at least one of the horizontal parts of the safety guard extends past the rear wheels of the vehicle and in that at least one of the at least one proximity sensor is installed on ~~this~~ the at least one extending horizontal

part and has a length that is virtually the same as that of the ~~said~~ the at least one extending horizontal part.

15. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the link between the at least one proximity sensor or
~~sensors~~ and the alarm sounding device is a wireless communication link.

16. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ further
comprising:

a transponder employing transponder technology which is used to implement the
wireless communication link.

17. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of Claims 1-4, provided with a~~
~~sensor as described in one of Claims 5-7 and a sensor as described in Claim 8 or a sensor as~~
~~described in Claim 9 or both~~ Claim 1, wherein the at least one proximity sensor includes:

a pressure sensor by means of which the presence of a road user or object pressing
against the side of the vehicle can be detected; and

a radiation sensor that is sensitive to radiation by means of which the presence of
a road user in the vicinity of a side of the vehicle can be detected.

18. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the alarm sounding device is able to sound various alarms depending on the fact as to whether it is actuated by ~~the sensor as described in one of Claims 5-7 or by the sensor as described in one of Claims 8 or 9~~ a pressure sensor as the at least one proximity sensor or by a radiation sensor as the at least one proximity sensor.

19. (currently amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein in addition to the at least one proximity sensor there is also an acoustic sensor by means of which a signal that is audible to the driver can be generated under conditions that can be set.